



# Utah!

Where ideas connect

Department of Environmental Quality  
Division of Environmental Response and Remediation

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DIV. OF OIL, GAS & MINING

ERRC-119-03

April 21, 2003

Jon Cherry  
8315 West 3595 South  
P.O. Box 6001  
Magna, Utah 84044-6001

Re: **Status of the Elton Tunnel Historic Facility, EOA #130.00**

Dear Mr. Cherry:

The Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR) has reviewed the Anderson Engineering Company, Inc. report entitled Final Construction Report for Repair and Maintenance of Reclaimed Features at Carr Fork Site, Tooele, Utah dated April 2000. The report states that one of the maintenance objectives scheduled for completion in 1999 was the demolition of the exposed concrete Elton Tunnel portal and backfilling of the surrounding area.

Anderson states that in the south branch of Pine Creek, stream flow had developed an erosion channel through a breach in the lower water holding pond and was flowing through the original Elton Tunnel portal structure. Between November 15<sup>th</sup> and November 20<sup>th</sup>, Anderson Engineering undertook corrective action to repair the drainage situation. A HDPE-lined spillway and overflow channel was constructed from the second water holding pond into the natural drainage channel below the ponds. A 6-inch layer of well-graded borrow material was placed over the liner on both sides and on the bottom. A 12-inch layer of 6-inch riprap mixed with 3-inch gravel was then placed over the borrow material to prevent erosion. After re-routing the water flow, the Elton Tunnel portal structure was demolished. The contractor also excavated along the tunnel between the portal and the two sinkholes located upgradient to determine if there were any subterranean voids still present.

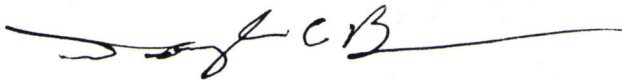
Between November 22<sup>nd</sup> and November 24<sup>th</sup>, the investigative excavations detected no additional tunnel voids, and all the excavated areas and the two sinkholes were backfilled with clean fill (approximately 300 cubic yards) and compacted. The report further states that while excavations into the Elton Tunnel adit were open, an inspection was performed to check for mine drainage. No evidence of mine drainage was detected in the former tunnel backfill.

Since there was no detectable mine drainage and the tunnel portal has been permanently sealed, it appears that exposure pathways of concern may have been mitigated. At this time, the DERR is providing this site a final "No Further Action" (NFA) status under the Environmental On-site Assessments (EOA) project. Since it was noted that Pine Creek water was at one point flowing through the tunnel portal structure, the DERR suggests that the control structures associated with Pine Creek (to

prevent the creek water from flowing into the tunnel structure) should be inspected periodically to ascertain their effectiveness. The inspection reports from these inspections should be copied to the DERR for review. The Elton Tunnel (at one point) was one structure that was proposed by KUCC to assist in their dewatering plan for the pit, post mine closure. The DERR reiterates that our office should be contacted prior to any use of an EOA site for post mine closure maintenance activities, to determine if there are any outstanding environmental concerns.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (801) 536-4282.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas Bacon', followed by a long horizontal line.

Douglas Bacon, Environmental Scientist  
Division of Environmental Response and Remediation

DCB/skc

cc: Dr. Eva Hoffman, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VIII  
Daniel Hall, Division of Water Quality  
Tom Munson, Division of Oil, Gas, and Mining  
Myron Bateman, E.H.S., M.P.A., Director, Tooele County Health Department